

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Lucarelli et al.

Application No.: Continuation Application of 09/232,310 Art Unit: 1711
(Filed January 15, 1999)

Filed: Herewith Examiner: U.K. Rajguru

For: **POWDER COATING COMPOSITION**

**Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the "Background of the Invention" Section and before the "Field of the Invention" Section, please replace the cross-reference section beginning at Page 2, line 2, in its entirety, as shown:

-- This application is a continuation of non-provisional U.S. Application Serial No. 09/232,310, filed January 15, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/071,609, filed January 16, 1998, the specifications of which are incorporated in their entireties by reference. --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers in the above-identified application (A version of the amended claims with markings to show the changes made is also attached hereto).

1. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
at least one powdered polymer; and
a metal oxide, wherein the metal oxide has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.
12. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
from about 99.5 to about 99.9 wt% at least one powdered polymer; and
from about 0.1 to about 0.5 wt% of the reaction product of fumed silica and hexamethyldisilazane, wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than 10 microns.
14. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
at least one powdered polymer; and
the non-deammoniated reaction product of at least one metal oxide and hexamethyldisilazane, wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.
23. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
from about 98 to about 99.9 weight percent of at least one powdered polymer; and
from about 0.1 to about 2.0 weight percent of a flattening agent that is non-deammoniated reaction product of from about 80.0 to about 99.9 weight percent fumed silica and from about 0.1 to about 20.0 weight percent hexamethyldisilazane, wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.

REMARKS

This Amendment amends original claims 1, 12, 14, and 23 to indicate that the metal oxide or reaction product, as the case may be, is size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than 25 or 10 microns. No new matter has been added.

Consideration of this amendment, prompt examination and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 20, 2001

96135CON2PrelimAmend

MARKED VERSION OF AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
at least one powdered polymer; and
a metal oxide [having], wherein the metal oxide has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.
12. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
from about 99.5 to about 99.9 wt% at least one powdered polymer; and
from about 0.1 to about 0.5 wt% of the reaction product of fumed silica and hexamethyldisilazane [having], wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than 10 microns.
14. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
at least one powdered polymer; and
the non-deammoniated reaction product of at least one metal oxide and hexamethyldisilazane, wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.
23. (Amended) A powder coating composition comprising:
from about 98 to about 99.9 weight percent of at least one powdered polymer; and
from about 0.1 to about 2.0 weight percent of a flattening agent that is non-deammoniated reaction product of from about 80.0 to about 99.9 weight percent fumed silica and from about 0.1 to about 20.0 weight percent hexamethyldisilazane, wherein the reaction product has been size-reduced to a mean agglomerate particle size of less than about 25 microns.